

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24) released the following statement today following President Barack Obama's address to a Joint Session of Congress:

"The President's speech tonight was the calm and reassurance that America needed in this time of challenge. It seemed to me to be a 21st Century fireside chat, delivered in a reassuring tone that made it clear that no matter what the challenges are today, we are resilient and America has great promise and potential.

"The President didn't just sugar coat things, he reminded us that times are tough. But then he reminded us of the incredible power of America as a nation and the power of us as a people. Americans have triumphed over great adversity in the past and we will do it again. But the President's most important point was that in the end we will come out stronger, our economic system more secure, our children better educated, our dependence on fossil fuels broken and our health care system on the way to recovery.

"Looking ahead to that future, I was especially glad to hear the President reaffirm his commitment to restoring fiscal responsibility and accountability. Once we get our economy back on track, we must get our fiscal house in order and restore balanced budgeting to our government. Families across Upstate New York balance their check books each month – so must their government.

"In the coming months, I may not agree with everything the President says or all the legislation he proposes, but I vow to work with the President, and Republicans and Democrats in Congress, to fight for what is best for my district – better jobs and economic opportunity, a secure retirement and a health care system that works for everyone."

Each year, Arcuri offers his one guest ticket to the President's State of the Union Address to an accomplished local student, and their parent, selected by their respective school leadership. This year, Arcuri invited Mary Orsaio, a senior at Whitesboro High School, to be his guest for the Presidential address. Mary is the President of the Whitesboro High School Student Council and the President of the Whitesboro Environmental Club. She plays Varsity tennis and softball and works part-time at Holland Farms.

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